



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

No. 115

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who keeps us in the midst of dangers, shelter us from temptations. Keep us from the pride that encourages us to think of ourselves more highly than we are. Deliver us from the lethargy which delights too much in ease and comfort. Save us from procrastination, from refusing to face the unpleasant, and from analyzing things until it is too late to ever do them.

Protect us from losing heart and hope, and from the desire to lower our standards and to accept things as they are. Today, guide our lawmakers away from the temptations of criticism and faultfinding. Give them the strength to resist the weakness of thinking the worst of others. Empower each of us to fight every seduction that makes sin more attractive. Provide us with the purity to overcome evil with good. We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the

first half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today following the time for the leaders, we will have a 60-minute period for morning business. Following that time, which will end at approximately 10:45 or so, we will return to the consideration of the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill.

Last night, we reached consent for a vote in relation to the Stabenow amendment on interoperable communications, which will again be at 11 a.m. That vote will be on a motion to waive a budget point of order with respect to Senator STABENOW's amendment.

As I stated last night, we have been on this bill for 5 days now and we need to finish our work on this legislation today. The two managers have done a good job working with Members on their language and have been able to accept a number of amendments. There are others that we will need to vote upon and we will be scheduling those for today and into this evening.

We need to be prepared to go late into the evening, if necessary, to complete the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill. I hope we can finish earlier, but if we do have votes on many of the remaining amendments and Members insist upon that, it will be necessary to work late.

The hearings on Judge Roberts continue today in the Judiciary Committee. We have tried to accommodate that schedule with the least number of

interruptions. However, we have to continue to get our work done on the Senate floor on these important appropriations bills.

I expect we will be voting throughout the day today and, as I mentioned, into the evening, to finish the Commerce-Justice-Science measure.

THE SCOURGE OF METHAMPHETAMINE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I take a few moments to comment on one aspect of the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill. In doing so, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their bipartisan cooperation in getting this bill done, which I believe we can do by tonight. The funding in this bill is critical to the functioning of our Government, and I expect it will pass with strong bipartisan support.

Before we cast a lot more votes, I do want to call everybody's attention to one particular aspect of this bill that has ramifications throughout each of our States that people are becoming more and more aware of but deserves a lot more attention, and this is the methamphetamine crisis that is raging all across this country.

As a physician, as well as a legislator, I am troubled by this growing meth crisis. As we travel across our States and look at the devastation that is caused by this particular drug and the making and manufacturing of this drug, we do need to act. In the last 10 years, meth has become America's No. 1 drug problem—before marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and any other drug.

In Tennessee, we have been particularly hard hit. In 2004, Tennessee ranked No. 2, tied with Iowa and behind Missouri, in the number of methamphetamine lab seizures. A good friend of mine, Sandy Mattice, who is a U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee, describes meth as "the worst stuff that we have seen." And it

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S9997